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THE.....

Michigan Philatelist.

A Monthly Devoted to the Interest of Philately and Philatelists.

Published by

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Ithaca, Michigan.

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THE MICHIGAN PHILATELIST

VOL. I. ITHACA, MICH., JUNE, 1898. No. 1.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM NEW YORK.

MACK.

THE demand for latest issue of Porto Rico, Cuba, and Philippine Islands stamps is enormous. It is impossible to get these stamps direct from the respective post-offices, as all mail services have been broken off between Spain and America. The stamps must either be purchased from foreign dealers, or you must have a friend in a neutral country purchase them for you—a sort of middleman. Apropos of the above, it is stated on good authority that the American postmaster-general has made arrangements to open a post-office at the first port occupied by our forces. Ordinary United States postage-stamps will be used until it is decided to hold the islands permanently; then special stamps will be issued for Uncle Sam's colonies. Another philatelic result is embodied in the war revenue bill, which provides for a revival of the stamp duties. The stamps will be issued for the same purposes as the internal revenue stamps of the Civil War, which are so popular with collectors.

R. F. Albrecht has been rather unfortunate with the many schemes he became interested in; the latest is the failure of the American Souvenir Card Co., although it was reported not very long ago that business was on the increase, that the arrangements Mr. Albrecht had made in the West were most successful, and that he hoped to do a large business in the Western States this year. It was rather a great surprise when we heard the "Co." had failed.

Last winter many advanced collectors took up collecting of United States "revenues" in pairs, blocks, and strips. Although nothing much is heard of this fad nowadays, it must be said that the demand for revenues in this condition is on the increase. As the supply is limited, dealers ask a very stiff price for a desirable block, and in most cases get it. It is a pleasure to see some of the magnificent combinations in pairs and blocks some dealers hold. A block of twenty is not a rarity, and blocks of four to twelve are common. A block of forty-two one-dollar Conveyance; a block of twenty fifty-cent Lease; a block of sixteen fifty-cent Probate of Will, are some trifles. Part perfs. and imperfs. are well represented; but of second and third issues the better values are very scarce; a block of eight is considered a rarity, and such are in large demand.

That the government intends to raise the rate of postage, while the Spanish-American war lasts, has a grain of truth in it. It has been rumored for some time, that the receipts of the post-office were much less than the expenditures. To put the post-office on a paying basis, and also to help Uncle Sam in his warfare, the following bill was introduced by Representative Bromwell of Ohio, a member of the Committee on Post-offices and Post Roads. He proposes to make postage on letters three cents an ounce instead of two; on

second-class matter,— newspapers, periodicals, and books, two cents a pound instead of one, and on third-class matters,—merchandise, samples,—one cent an ounce, instead of one-half cent. These changes on the current business of the post-office service would add about $40,000,000 annually. Mr. Bromwell proposes it as a war measure purely, and the operation of the bill is to be limited to the continuance of hostilities. It is expected that much objection will be caused by the advancement of the letter rate. The philatelic fraternity will be hit quite hard, if this change takes effect. As it is, many dealers care little for mail trade, as the postage in most cases eats up all the profit. It is very unlikely that the bill will pass in its present form; but if it should happen to be the contrary, the result, will work much displeasure, and a discontinuance of letter-writing (unless by post card), among us "stampites." The coming Omaha exhibition stamps, the government expects to net a clear million dollars profit.

WITH OUR ADVERTISERS.

Do not fail to read Mr. C. E. Hussman's ad. It contains some very good bargains.

The Johnstown Stamp & Pub. Co. have an ad. in this issue. Do not "skip" it.

Mr. H. J. Lowall, of Bloomsburg, Pa., has forwarded his contract. We can assure you that he has bargains in store for every one. Write him.

All orders from Mr. Joe F. Beard's ad. will be filled by Mr. D. F. Eaton, his successor. Write him and secure his price-list; but don't forget to enclose two cents for return postage.

Mr. Hicks, of Mitchell, Ont., also has an ad. Do not fail to read it.

Messrs. Wilson, Chase & Co., have contracted for advertisement space. They offer "something for nothing."

CHAS. S. APPLEGATH.

Mr. C. E. Applegath was born in St. Thomas, Ont., some seventeen years ago.

He commenced the collecting of postage-stamps at the early age of five.

In 1897 the Star Stamp Co. was organized, with Mr. Applegath as manager; but owing to the death of its secretary and treasury, Mr. K. P. Moore, the firm has discontinued business.

Mr. Applegath shows quite marked ability as a writer. At present he writes for six or seven magazines, and we are glad we have secured his services for the Michigan Philatelist.

Mr. Applegath is on the ticket for vice-president of the D. P. A., and we trust that the members of the society will give him their support.

W. M. Waterbury.

THE

MICHIGAN PHILATELIST

A MONTHLY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF

PHILATELY AND PHILATELISTS

W. M. WATERBURY, Editor.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS.

To the United States, Canada, and Mexico, 25 cents a year. To all other countries, in advance (M. O.), 50 cents.

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EDITORIAL.

As this is our first number, and we desire to place it on a firm basis, we respectfully solicit your advertisement and your subscription. We will increase the size of this paper as soon as we consider it advisable.

We present to our readers this month the likeness of Mr. C. S. Applegath, one of Hamilton's prominent stamp dealers. Mr. Applegath was recently manager of the Star Stamp Co., of Hamilton, Ontario, but owing to the death of its Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. K. P. Moore, the firm has been dissolved.

Next number will be our "boom" edition, one thousand to one thousand five hundred copies will be sent all over the world. Do not forget to send your "ad" in. We guarantee good results.

Why not have a Michigan philatelic organization? I see no reason why we could n't make a success of it. Kindly let me hear from all interested in the above project.

We will be pleased to exchange a one-inch space with any first-class publication.

Send twenty-five cents for a one year's subscription, and see the prize you get by return mail.

We will next month conduct a Review of all the important papers. If you wish to have your paper received, send a copy to the review editor, C. S. Applegrath, box 4, Hamilton, Ont.

We have received the following publications:—

Virginia Philatelist, Int. Philatelist, Montreal Philatelist, Evergreen Philatelist, Columbian Philatelist, Revenue Philatelist, New York Philatelist, American Collector, Metropolitan, Post-office Weekly Era, Mekeel's Weekly, Stampman, "Pennsy," Herald Exchange, Philatelic Bulletin, Philatelic Advocate, Ontario Philatelist, and the *Little Wave.*

FACTS.

THE man who sells his stamps in fear that the present high prices of stamps will not hold their own, is himself sold.

A collector never knows how scarce some stamps are, until he tries to get them.

HAMILTON PENCILINGS.

CHAS. S. APPLEGATH.

Under this heading, I shall strive to give, each month, a concise account of what is transpiring in the philatelic metropolis of Canada.

THE one soul-engrossing topic with local collectors is the third annual convention of the Dominion Philatelic Association, which is to be held in this city on July 1 and 2 next.

Present indications point to this meet being the most successful in the society's career. The Hamilton Stamp Club, upon whose efforts the success of the convention is dependent, is now thoroughly organized into a number of active committees, which have the arrangements pretty well completed.

Up to date of writing, May 12, the following members have signified their intention of being present, viz: —

F. M. Robinson, W. A. Starnaman, G. W. Hicks, R. S. Mason, T. I. Weaver, W. B. Grant, R. S. Knox, N. Matches, Irving E. Patterson, Jas. H. Slater, R. G. Widdicombe, E. A. Marris, Geo. Bradley, Dr. E. G. Kittson, A. Grigg, L. S. Graham, W. A. Beatty, Herbert Terryberry, P. A. Oswald, Chas. Bailey, A. H. Ward, Fred. J. Garraty, W. A. Howell, Jr., R. L. Billings, C. A. Murton, Geo. W. Starnaman, C. S. Applegath, and W. A. Lydiatt.

Even if the above members are the only ones to attend, the convention will then be the largest of ite kind ever held in Canada.

THE Hamilton Stamp Club, which, by the way, is the largest local philatelic society in Canada, has no less than five candidates in the field to contest for political honors at the coming election. Our candidates, who are well chosen, intelligent, and active philatelists, should receive the support of every D. P. A. member. They are: Auction Manager, Norman Matches; Vice-President, Chas. S. Applegath; Librarian, W. B. Grant; Trustees, R. S. Mason and James. H. Slater.

MR. E. A. MARRIS, a well-known dealer and a member of the H. S. C., while not on the official ticket, is also a candidate for Trustee, and solicits the support of his friends.

THE Hamilton Stamp Club recently lost a valued member, in the person of Mr. P. K. Moore, who died of typhoid fever, March 31, at Buffalo, N. Y. Mr. Moore was, at the time of his death, Secretary-Treasurer of the Star Stamp Company.

SINCE the death of its late Secretary-Treasurer, the Star Stamp Company has been somewhat inactive, and it is announced that the firm will shortly go into liquidation.

As has been predicted, the Canadian Jubilee stamps have been gradually dropping in price. At a recent auction held in this city, the highest price bid on a half-cent stamp was five cents. It is not an unusual thing these days to see the half-cent Jubilee stamps used, and on the original envelope. It appears that many who speculated in these stamps, finding that they are dropping in value, are using them on their ordinary correspondence.

THE local demand at present is for Canadian revenues, and these stamps are bringing very fair prices.

THERE is not the demand for Spanish Colonial stamps, at present, that was anticipated, owing to the war between the United States and Spain. However, we might say here, that it would not be at all surprising if some day we were to see the new Cuban stamps surcharged with the stars and stripes.

IT is again rumored that a philatelic publication is to appear from this city in the course of a few months. The projector this time is Mr. R. S. Mason, a well-known local dealer.

Several unsuccessful attempts have been made to start a paper here, and

we sincerely hope that the present one will not come to naught. If any one could make a success of a paper, it ought to be Mr. Mason, and we wish him success in his new enterprise.

Mr. Joe F. Beard died May 6 at 8:15 A. M., of appendicitis. Mr. Beard was one of the largest dealers in the world. Our sincerest sympathy is with the bereaved family.

CANADIAN NOTES.

THE publisher of the MICHIGAN PHILATELIST has requested me to be Canadian correspondent for this paper. I will endeavor to furnish, each month, as much Canadian "new news," as is possible to set forth in the space at my disposal. We all feel sure that the MICHIGAN PHILATELIST is here to stay; so draw your own conclusions. So when you receive a sample copy of this paper, live up to the rule of Captain Cuttle, —one of Dickens's typical characters, —"When found, make a note on," and send in your subscription.

My first quota of news is, that the Canada new issue of stamps is about to be changed. It is rumored that the dies are already prepared; but this has not been confirmed as yet. The principal change in the new stamp will be the inserting of numerals in the spaces now occupied by maple leaves. It would be a good idea to reduce the size of the earrings; but it is thought the central design will remain unaltered. I suppose we will have to distinguish these stamps from the previous issue by calling them the "new new issue."

IN Canada, as in the United States, the war is the topic of the day just now; but still philatelists find time to devote to their stamps, so the trade has not decreased much: only a few of the younger followers of our "hobby" having dropped off for the time; these preferring to devote their spare moments to the reading of exciting war news rather than to the more peaceful pursuit of philately.

NOT long ago Postmaster-General Mulock brought up a bill to impose postage on newspapers: but this has not passed, as many protests were sent in, both from members of Parliament and citizens. Mr. Mulock seems to be a little behind in his accounts, so he thought this would be a good way to make up the deficit. He will probably resort to other means of doing so now.

THE demand for Canada Jubilees is increasing, and good prices are being paid for them by both dealers and collectors. Many are buying up large quantities of used specimens for the English market. The two-cent stamp is proving a good investment.

THE old supply of Canadian envelopes is exhausted. As very few of these are used, they are hard to get in used condition. It is rumored that the unused copies have been all cornered. If this is so, the price will advance rapidly.

AFTER Jan. 1, 1899, the letter rate of Canada is to be reduced to two cents. This will be no small advantage to large business houses.

G. W. HICKS.

WE would like to urge it upon all members of the D. P. A. to be sure to attend the convention at Hamilton, as it will be very beneficial to you all.

Go, take your stamps, your knowledge of stamps (don't forget your pocket-books), and have a good time.

W. M. W.

"BLACK LIST."

UNDER this heading we will give the names of those who would rather *steal* than pay.

C. E. Marshall, Austin, Ill.
L. G. Wadsworth, Winthorp, Mass.
Trojan Stamp Co., Troy, O.

POSTAGE-STAMPS, AND HOW THEY ORIGINATED.

FILIUS.

For all practical purposes, the history of postage-stamps begins in the United Kingdom, and with the great reform of its postal system in 1839–40. A post-paid envelope was in common use in Paris in the year 1653.

Stamped postal letter-paper (carta postale bollata) was issued to the public by the government of the Sardinian states in November, 1818, and stamped postal envelopes were issued by the same government from 1820 until 1836. Stamped wrappers for newspapers were made experimentally in London by Mr. Chas. Whiting, under the name of "go-frees," in 1830. Four years later (June, 1834), and in ignorance of what Mr. Whiting had already done, Mr. Chas. Knight, the well-known publisher, in a letter addressed to Lord Althorp, then chancellor of the exchequer, recommended similar wrappers for adoption. Finally, and in its results most important of all, the adhesive stamp was made experimentally by Mr. James Chalmers in his printing-office at Dundee in August, 1834. These experimental stamps were made adhesive from a wash of gum. Their inventor had already won local distinction in matters of postal reform by his strenuous and successful efforts, made as early as the year 1822, for the acceleration of the Scottish mails from London. Those efforts resulted in a saving of forty-eight hours on the double mail journey, and were highly appreciated in Scotland.

There is evidence that from 1822 onward his attention was much directed toward postal questions, and that he held correspondence with the postal reformers, both in and out of parliament. It is also plain that he was far more intent upon aiding public improvements than upon winning credit for them. He made adhesive stamps in 1834, and showed them to his neighbors, but took no steps publicly recommending their adoption by the post-office until long after such a recommendation had been published—although very hesitatingly—by the author of a now famous pamphlet, entitled, "Post-Office Reforms." Mr. Hill brought the adhesive stamp under the notice of the commissioners of post-office inquiry Feb. 13, 1837. Mr. Chalmers made no public mention of his stamp of 1834 until November, 1837.

Only a fortnight before his examination by the above-named commissioners, Mr. Hill, in his letter to Lord Monteagle (then Mr. Spring Rice, and chancellor of the exchequer) seemed to have no thought of the adhesive stamp. He recommended to the treasury that "stamped covers and sheets of paper be supplied to the public from the stamp-office or post-office, . . . and sold at such a price as to include the postage. . . . Covers at various prices would be required for packets of various weights. Each should have the weight it is entitled to carry legibly printed with the stamp. Should the experience warrant the goverment in making the use of stamped covers universal, most important advantages would be secured. The post-office would be relieved altogether from the collection of the revenue. Then, upon suggestion, it would seem, of some possible difficulty that might arise from the occasional bringing of unstamped letters to a post-office by persons unable to write, perhaps this difficulty might be obviated by using a bit of paper just large enough to bear the stamp, and covered at the back with a glutinous wash."

(To be continued.)

MR. DEALER!

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....., 1898.

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(SIGNED.) .....

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We will give a

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MICHIGAN STAMP & PUB. COMPANY,

Ithaca, Michigan.

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Bloomsburg, Pa.

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Can. envelopes 1, 2, 3c used, entire, 8c.
Can. envelopes 1, 2, 3c unused, entire, 12.
A Novelty. 2c Can. env. used as 3c with ½c stamps; only a few at 6c.
40 mixed Can. Jub. and New Issue 15c.
Can. New Issue, 6 var. unused, only 20c.
Can. New Issue, 5 var. used, only 6c.
Can. New Issue, sheet of 50 ½c only 45c.

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40 Trinidad ½ p. green. 25 Trinidad 2½ p. blue. 25 good Br. Col. cat. $1.25. Perak. Bermuda, etc. 100 ½, 1, 2, 3, and 5c Can. New Issue mixed. All kinds must be in by June 15. All stamps are in the finest condition.

GEO. W. HICKS, Box 219, Mitchell, Ont.

FREE. 10 stamps catalogued at 2c and one at 5c to all sending reference for my sheets. **ROY C. SEITER,** 313 Main St., New Ulm, Minn.

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